

Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases

FY 2010/2011 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2011



U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CRITICAL ISSUES: EMERGING AND NEW PLANT AND ANIMAL PESTS AND DISEASES

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.200 (Special Research Grants).

DATES: Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on **August 1, 2011 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy and Oversight Division; Office of Grants and Financial Management; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: RFA-OGFM@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases (Critical Issues) for fiscal year (FY) 2010/2011 to perform critical research activities related to time-critical, emerging plant and animal pest and disease issues. The amount available for support of applications submitted under this RFA is approximately \$305,000.

The program is designed to provide one-time seed funding to help initiate work requiring immediate attention until other longer-term resources can be secured to address the issue. NIFA has solicited proposals several times during FY 2011 to address specific new or emerging issues. These solicitations include only FY 2010 funds as there were no funds appropriated for Critical Issues in FY 2011.

For this particular solicitation, NIFA is requesting proposals that address specific aspects of the following issues:

- The Bagrada bug, *Bagrada hilaris*, (also known as the painted bug or harlequin bug) on vegetable crops;
- Rat lungworm and associated disease transmission to humans;
- Groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) in tomato.

This notice identifies the objectives for Critical Issues projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a Critical Issues grant. NIFA additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

The authority for this program is contained in Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i (c)(1)(B)).

B. Purpose and Priorities

NIFA announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Critical Issues program to perform critical research activities related to time-critical, emerging plant and animal pest and disease issues. The program is designed to provide one-time seed funding to help initiate work requiring immediate attention until other longer-term resources can be secured to address the issue. *Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate evidence of collaboration and communication with working groups and approved multi-state research committees, however all applicants qualified to conduct the research are encouraged to apply.*

C. Program Area Description

For this particular solicitation, NIFA is requesting proposals that address specific aspects of the following issues:

- The Bagrada bug, *Bagrada hilaris*, (also known as the painted bug or harlequin bug) on vegetable crops;
- Rat lungworm, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, and associated disease transmission to humans;
- Groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) in tomato and other agronomic crops.

See Part II, C. for a more detailed description of the types of proposals that are being solicited.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$305,000 is available to fund applications submitted in response to this solicitation for project periods of up to two years with the option for a one-year no cost extension.

Awards issued as a result of this RFA will have designated the Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service, as the payment system for funds. For more information see www.nifa.usda.gov/business/method_of_payment.html.

B. Types of Applications

Under this solicitation, applications may be submitted to the Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases Programs as the following type of request:

- (1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

C. Project Types

1. The Bagrada bug, *Bagrada hilaris*, on vegetable crops.

Background

The Bagrada bug (also called painted or harlequin bug) was first found in June 2008 in Los Angeles County, California, and is now distributed in southern California and southern Arizona. It is potentially a major pest of crop plants in the Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) family, including cabbage, kale, turnip, cauliflower, mustard, broccoli, and radish. The Bagrada bug has also been recorded attacking papaya, potato, maize, sorghum, cotton, capers, and some legumes. Both adults and nymphs damage plants by sucking juices from the plant. Feeding results in stippled or wilted areas on leaves.

The Critical Issues program will support research and/or extension efforts directed toward the following areas:

- a. Host susceptibility of agronomic crops.
- b. Current/projected distribution and pest status of the Bagrada bug:
 - Mapping current distribution.

- Estimation of damage thresholds.
- Modeling the occurrence or spread of the pest.

c. Management strategies for the pest:

- Detection and sampling methods.
- Control strategies (including chemical, cultural, and/or biological tactics).

Research should focus on initial experimentation addressing the above areas, either individually, in combination, or synergistically. This RFA requests seed grant proposals to initiate or continue high priority research and/or extension activity directed toward integrated pest management approaches for this bug.

Focus of work: Conduct start-up laboratory and field experiments to assess crop susceptibility to the pest, determine insecticide efficacy and potential biological or cultural management techniques. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate evidence of collaboration and communication across disciplinary groups; however, all applicants qualified to conduct the research are encouraged to apply. This research requires flexibility and adaptation in order to find solutions in a time-critical manner. Proposals must demonstrate experience in conducting time-critical research. NIFA anticipates funding one proposal of up to approximately \$110,000.

2. Rat lungworm, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, and associated disease transmission to humans.

Background

The nematode (roundworm) *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, the rat lungworm, is a common cause of human eosinophilic meningitis in the Pacific basin. Humans may acquire an infection by eating raw or undercooked snails or slugs infected with the parasite or by eating raw vegetables contaminated by small snails, slugs, or mollusk secretions. An increase in organic produce and consumption of raw produce has resulted in a greater frequency of incidence in the human population.

The Critical Issues program will support research and/or extension efforts directed toward the following areas:

a. Strategies that will mitigate the risk of human infection in locally grown produce in the Pacific basin including:

- Snail and slug management strategies (including chemical, cultural and/or biological tactics).
- Post harvest decontamination methods.

b. Development of educational outreach to local populations.

Research should focus on initial experimentation addressing the above areas, either individually, in combination, or synergistically. This RFA requests seed grant proposals to initiate or continue high priority research and/or extension activity directed toward integrated pest management approaches for snails and slugs.

Focus of work: Conduct start-up field experiments to assess crop susceptibility and levels of contamination due to the pests, determine molluscicide efficacy and potential biological or cultural management techniques. Priority will be given to proposals that provide evidence of collaboration and communication across jurisdictional boundaries; however, all applicants qualified to conduct the research are encouraged to apply. This research requires flexibility and adaptation in order to find solutions in a time-critical manner. NIFA anticipates funding one proposal of up to approximately \$110,000.

3. Groundnut ringspot virus in tomato and other agronomic crops.

Background

The groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) was first detected in Homestead, Florida, in 2009. GRSV has previously been identified on tomato, pepper, peanut, soybean, and coriander in Argentina, Brazil, and South Africa. This thrips-pathogen complex poses a threat to commercial tomato production in the United States and may be a concern for other cropping systems.

The Critical Issues program will support research and/or extension efforts directed toward the following areas:

- a. Determination of the geographic range of the pathogen.
- b. Determination of the host range.
- c. Development of management strategies for the vectors and pathogen in tomato and other agronomic crops.

Research should focus on initial experimentation addressing the above areas, either individually, in combination, or synergistically. This RFA requests seed grant proposals to initiate or continue high priority research and/or extension activity directed toward an integrated pest management approach for this thrips-vector complex.

Focus of work: Conduct start-up laboratory and/or field experiments to examine the extent of spread of GRSV in tomatoes and other potential hosts and begin development and transfer of management strategies. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate evidence of collaboration and communication across disciplinary groups; however, all applicants qualified to conduct the research are encouraged to apply. This research requires flexibility and adaptation in order to find solutions in a time-critical manner. Proposals must demonstrate experience in conducting time-critical research. NIFA anticipates funding one proposal of up to \$110,000.

D. Scientific Peer Review

Subsection (c)(5) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(5)) requires applicants to conduct scientific peer review of their proposed research activities in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary prior to the Secretary making a grant award under this authority. Regulations implementing this requirement are set forth in 7 CFR part 3400.20. The regulations impose the following requirements:

(1) Scientific peer review. Prior to the award of a standard or continuation grant by NIFA, any proposed project shall have undergone a review arranged by the grantee. For research projects, such review must be a scientific peer review conducted in accordance with 7 CFR 3400.21.

(2) Credible and independent review. A review arranged by the grantee must provide for a credible and independent assessment of the proposed project. A credible review is one that provides an appraisal of technical quality and relevance sufficient for an organizational representative to make an informed judgment as to whether the proposal is appropriate for submission for Federal support. To provide for an independent review, such review may include USDA employees, but should not be conducted solely by USDA employees.

(3) Notice of completion and retention of records. **A notice of completion of the review shall be conveyed in writing to NIFA as part of the Other Attachments (Field 11. of the R&R Other Project Information Form).** The written notice constitutes certification by the applicant that a review in compliance with these regulations has occurred. Applicants are not required to submit results of the review to NIFA; however, proper documentation of the review process and results should be retained by the applicant. **Please note: award funds cannot be released until the Scientific Peer Review Certification is received.**

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by State agricultural experiment stations, land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.) McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act, and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine for the purpose of facilitating or expanding ongoing State-Federal food and agricultural research programs that:

- (i) promote excellence in research, extension, or education on a regional and national level;
- (ii) promote the development of regional research centers;
- (iii) promote the research partnership between the Department of Agriculture, colleges and universities, research foundations, and State agricultural experiment stations for regional research efforts; and
- (iv) facilitate coordination and cooperation of research, extension, or education among States through regional research grants.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Pursuant to section 2(c)(3) of Public Law 89-106, NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. **Applicants are advised to submit early to the Grants.gov system.**

New Users of Grants.gov

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR) (also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If the organization is not prepared (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), then the one-time registration process must be completed PRIOR to submitting an application. It can take as much as two weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible. In such situations the AR should go to “Get Registered” on the Grants.gov left navigation bar (or go to www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp) for information on registering the institution/organization with Grants.gov. A quick reference guide listing the steps is available as a 4-page PDF document at the following website: www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf.

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. In order to access, complete and submit applications, applicants must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov. This software is essential to apply for NIFA Federal assistance awards. For basic system requirements and download instructions, please see www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp. To verify that you have a compatible version of Adobe Reader, Grants.gov established a test package that will assist you in making that determination. Grants.gov Adobe Versioning Test Package: www.grants.gov/applicants/AdobeVersioningTestOnly.jsp.
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to www.grants.gov, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions,**” enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-OP-003462** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms), **or submitting the application** then refer to resources

available on the Grants.gov Web site first (www.grants.gov/). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

Grants.gov customer support

Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726

Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on [Federal Holidays](#).

Email: support@grants.gov

See www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Parts V and VI of the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. **If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.**

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III section 3. of the Guide. **ANY PROPOSALS CONTAINING NON-PDF DOCUMENTS WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW.** Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. With documented prior approval, resubmitted applications will be accepted until close of business on the closing date in the RFA.

If you do not own PDF-generating software, Grants.gov provides online tools to assist applicants. Users will find a link to “Convert Documents to PDF” on <http://grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>.

For any questions related to the preparation of an application please review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable request for applications. If assistance is still needed for preparing application forms content, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern Time, excluding Federal holidays.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

2. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract. The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of the Critical Issues program and describe the impact of proposed research and/or extension activities related to the time-critical, emerging plant and animal pest and disease issues as described in Part II. C. of this announcement. A suggested template for the Project Summary/Abstract can be found at:

www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/templates/project_summary.doc .

b. Field 8. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed fifteen pages of single or double-spaced written text including figures and tables. This maximum has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(1) Objectives. Clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged statement(s) of the specific aims of the proposed effort must be included in all applications.

(2) Procedures. The procedures or methodology to be applied to the proposed effort should be explicitly stated. This section should include but not necessarily be limited to: (i) a description of the proposed investigations and/or experiments in the sequence in which it is planned to carry them out; (ii) techniques to be employed, including their feasibility; (iii) kinds of results expected; (iv) means by which data will be analyzed or interpreted; (v) pitfalls which might be encountered; and (vi) limitations to proposed procedures.

(3) Justification. This section should include in-depth information on the following, when applicable: (i) estimates of the magnitude of the problem and its relevance to ongoing State-Federal food and agricultural research programs; (ii) importance of starting the work during the current year; and (iii) reasons for having the work performed by the proposing institution; (iv) demonstrated evidence of collaborative work that involves working groups or approved multi-state research committees, or similar activities; (v) demonstrated capacity to conduct research requiring flexibility and adaptation in order to find solutions in a time-critical manner.

(4) Literature Review. A summary of pertinent publications with emphasis on their relationship to the effort being proposed should be provided and should include all important and recent publications from other institutions, as well as those from your institution. The citations themselves should be accurate, complete, and written in an acceptable journal format.

(5) Current Work. Current unpublished institutional activities to date, directed toward the issue the proposed work addresses, should be described.

(6) Project Timetable. The application should outline all important phases as a function of time for the entire project period.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. A Senior/Key Person Profile should be completed for the PD and each co-PD, senior associate, and other professional personnel.

(1) Attach Biographical Sketch – **PDF Attachment. 2-Page Limit (excluding publications listings) per PD, co-PD, senior associate, and other professional personnel.** Title the attachment as ‘Biographical Sketch’ in the document header and save file as ‘Biographical Sketch – person name’.

(2) Attach Current and Pending Support – **PDF Attachment. No Page Limit.** Current and Pending Support information is only required for personnel with PD or co-PD indicated as their Project Role on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile. All applications must contain a list of all Current and Pending Support detailing public or private support (including in-house support) to which personnel identified in the application have committed portions of their time, whether or not salary support for person(s) involved is included in the budget, see template. Please note that the project being proposed should be included in the pending section of the form. Total project time listed for each PD should be indicated as a percent effort and not exceed 100% for concurrent projects. Title the attachment as ‘Current and Pending Support’ in the document header and save file as ‘Current and Pending Support – person name’.

A suggested template for the Current and Pending Support can be found at:

www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/templates/current_pending.doc.

5. R&R Personal Data

As noted in Part V, 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award.

6. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 7. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

7. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- a. Field 2. Program Code. Enter the program code name “**Critical Issues: Emerging and New Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases**” and the program code “**NI**”.
- b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. A suggested template for the Conflict of Interest List can be found at: www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/templates/conflict_of_interest.doc.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on **August 1, 2011 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

Applicants who have problems with the submission of an application to Grants.gov are encouraged to FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Part IV. A. for Grants.gov contact information.

Correspondence regarding submitted applications will be sent using e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from NIFA** regarding a submitted application within 15 days of the established deadline, please contact the Program Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

1. Indirect Costs

Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3319, **indirect costs are not allowable costs under Section 2(c)(1)(B) Special Grant projects**, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Further, costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool, (e.g., administrative or clerical salaries), may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

2. Building Construction or Renovation

No funds will be awarded for the renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such spaces; or for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

3. Tuition Remission

In accordance with Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (91 Stat. 981), as amended, tuition remission is not an allowable cost under Section 2(c)(1)(B) projects, and no funds will be approved for this purpose.

E. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.”

Described below are the requirements for successful submission of an application, all of the following steps must be met for an application to be considered for peer review:

- 1) Meeting the deadline: To electronically send the application to Grants.gov the submit button is hit, which triggers a date and time stamp on the application. The date and time stamp is used to determine whether the application was received by Grants.gov before the deadline, which is prior to close of business **(5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on August 1, 2011**. An application submitted or resubmitted after the deadline is late. Consideration of late applications is only given in extenuating circumstances (e.g., natural disasters, confirmed Grants.gov outage) with proper documentation and support of the Agency Contact (see Part VII). The occurrence of one of these situations does not automatically ensure that a late application will be accepted. If an applicant wants a late application considered under an extenuating circumstance, the applicant should contact the Agency Contact accordingly.
- 2) Successful Grants.gov validation: The Grants.gov system performs a limited check of the application, and applicants are notified by Grants.gov of the outcome of the initial review. Applications meeting Grants.gov requirements are made available to the funding agency for further processing. Applications that fail Grants.gov validation may be resubmitted to Grants.gov if the original agency deadline has not passed. (Note that the Grants.gov system may allow applications to be submitted after the deadline has passed, but the application is considered late by NIFA.)
- 3) Successful Agency validation: NIFA staff performs precursory review of the application. The agency validation process includes, for example, meeting eligibility requirements and following agency application guidelines (e.g., formatting, page limitations, limits on budget requests). Applicants are notified by NIFA of the outcome of this review.

F. Central Contractor Registration and Universal Identifier Requirements

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance published in the Federal Register (FR), 75 FR 55671, on September 14, 2010, “Financial Assistance Use of Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration,” awardees must comply with the requirements of this award term.

Requirement for Central Contractor Registration (CCR)

Unless you are exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, you as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the CCR until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term.

Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers

If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

1. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.
2. May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

Definitions

For purposes of this award term:

1. *Central Contractor Registration (CCR)* means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of a business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the CCR Internet site (currently at <http://www.ccr.gov>).
2. *Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number* means the nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
3. *Entity*, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR part 25, subpart C:
 - a. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian Tribe;
 - b. A foreign public entity;
 - c. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
 - d. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization; and
 - e. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.
4. *Subaward*:
 - a. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 - b. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, *see* Sec .210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, “Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations”).

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

Each application will be evaluated in a 2-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, applications that meet these requirements will be technically evaluated by a review panel.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Overall scientific and technical quality of the application (15 points);
2. Scientific and technical quality of the procedures (10 points);
3. Feasibility of attaining time sensitive objectives (20 points);
4. Relevance and importance of the proposed research to achieving specific objectives in the targeted areas of this solicitation (as described in Part II, C.) and the likelihood that the proposal will be successful (30 points);
5. Professional training and experience of key project personnel (including current and previous collaborative research related to the proposal) (10 points);
6. Adequacy of facilities and equipment (10 points); and
7. Appropriateness of budget request to attaining project objectives (5 points).

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: www.hepinc.com.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. NIFA will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of NIFA shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of NIFA as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Director during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html to view NIFA award terms and conditions);
- (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122 (2 CFR Parts 220 and 230), and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224)), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations (2 CFR Part 215).

7 CFR Part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance).

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR 3430—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Grant Programs--General Grant Administrative Provisions.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are to submit initial project information and annual and summary performance and financial reports to NIFA's electronic, Web-based inventory system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions.

An Annual Performance Report must be submitted within 90 days after the completion of the first year of the project, and annually thereafter during the life of the grant. Generally, the Annual Performance Reports should include a summary of the overall progress toward project objectives, current problems or unusual developments, the next year's activities, and any other information that is pertinent to the ongoing project or which may be specified in the terms and conditions of the award.

The Annual and Final Financial Status Report (SF-425) and a detailed line-item expenditures report should support the reported program activity.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact Dr. Rick Meyer, National Program Leader for Entomology, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2240; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2240; telephone: (202) 401-4891; fax: (202) 401-1782; e-mail: hmeyer@nifa.usda.gov.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by NIFA without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed three years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes, if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

Please refer to [7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Grant Programs--General Grant Administrative Provisions](#), for the applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.